

PAXTON CHURCH
PAXTANG, PA.

H.A.B.S. No. PA-31

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. PA-3

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Julian Millard, District Officer
2250 No. Third St., Harrisburg, Pa.

PAXTON CHURCH
Presbyterian
Paxtang Boro
Near Harrisburg, Pa.

OWNER: Paxton Church

DATE OF ERECTION: 1740.

ARCHITECT: Unknown.

BUILDER: Unknown.

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent. The Church plant has been greatly expanded in recent times but the old building stands alone. Exterior very little changed. In 1930 the Church was "restored" by R. B. Okie, Architect, and the interior is now finished in the best Pennsylvania tradition of the early period.

NUMBER OF STORIES: One, with galleries.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Walls of rough mountain stone, roof slate, interior plastered.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: Drawings of Mr. Okie; Egle's History of Dauphin County; "Historic Paxton" by Helen Bruce Wallace.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The present Church was preceded by a Log Church on the same site, built some time previous to 1722.

The first record of regular preaching services at Paxtang is under date of 1726 in the record of the New Castle Presbytery, authorizing Rev. Jas. Anderson to give one-fifth of his time to Paxtang, one-fifth to Derry and three-fifths to Donegal.

The first mention of the Paxton Congregation in the Records of the Presbytery of Donegal, to which Paxton Church later belonged, was under date of 1732.

The Rev. John Elder, famous in later years, became pastor in 1738. The exterior remains practically unaltered to the present day (1934), but the interior has seen many changes. For several years there was only a dirt floor, no pews, no plaster finish and the ceiling was open to the rafters.

The graveyard to the southeast of the Church has been in use since the earliest times but was first enclosed by a stone wall in 1792, much of which still stands.

The iron gateway to the graveyard was erected by the D.A.R. as a memorial to soldiers of the Revolution.

Julian M. McLean
Pastor's Office

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.